

REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 18, 2007. At the time of this Office Action, Claims 1-22 were pending in the Application of which Claims 16-22 were allowed, Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13 were rejected and Claims 5, 12, 14 and 15 were objected to. The following specific actions were taken or matters raised: (I) Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domberg et al. (US 5097986), (II) Claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domberg as applied to Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 above and further in view of Le Claire et al (US 5121677), (III) Claims 2 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domberg as applied to Claims 1 and 7 above and further in view of Ficken et al (US 5236103); (IV) Claims 5, 12, 14 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and (V) Claims 16-22 were allowed over the present prior art.

In order to advance prosecution of this case and to overcome the rejections asserted by the Office, Claims 2-5, 8, 12, 14 and 15 have been amended, Claims 1 and 7 have been canceled and Claims 23-32 have been added. It is believed that neither the amended claims nor the new claims involve any introduction of new matters, whereby entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

CONCLUSION

If there are any matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of the Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant on 512-345-9767 at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. O. Simmons', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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